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Zippy Chippy

Author remembers race horse.
Page 2

Growing together

Port Cares supports garden.
Page 3

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Venue adds flavour to festival



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne
Flavours volunteer
Annamarie don
Bak serves John
Lehocki a drink
on Saturday
afternoon at the
Roselawn Centre.
See Page 6 for the
story.

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Sometimes 'losing real close' is good enough

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Winning isn't everything.
It's a lesson author William Thomas learned from what could be the biggest loser in the horse racing industry — a horse named Zippy Chippy.

It's one Thomas shares in his latest book, *The Legend of Zippy Chippy: Life Lessons from Horse Racing's Most Loveable Loser*, published by Penguin Random House. He'll give a reading from the book later this month in Port Colborne.

Thomas said an average thoroughbred races only about six times per year. Zippy ran 100 races, most at the Finger Lakes Race Track near Rochester, N.Y. He lost every one.

Often, race horses that repeatedly lose start to show signs of depression.

"Not Zippy," Thomas said.

"He'd kick the ground with his head held high and tail up to let the other horses know he kicked some serious (butt) out there today. He'd have a beer (usually Coors Light) and something to eat and go to sleep."

"He never lost any sleep over losing, that's for sure."

Zippy came close to winning a few times. He finished second eight times, and chalked up 12 third-place finishes. And after back-to-back second-place finishes during the heyday of Zippy's career, his owner and trainer, Felix Monserrate proudly told reporters: "My horse, he's been losing really close lately," Thomas said.

"My thinking now is: if you do it best, you do it clean, and you do it honest, you show respect in life never mind sports. Losing real close is plenty close enough most days. Because life is hard and it's not getting any easier. We've got to get rid of this



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Author William Thomas holds a copy of his latest book called *The Legend of Zippy Chippy: Life Lessons from Horse Racing's Most Loveable Loser*, in Wainfleet.

"win at all costs."

Ultimately, Zippy did end up winning. Sort of.

While most thoroughbreds earn fans by winning races, Zippy's disappointing racetrack record, including career winnings of only \$30,834, earned him numerous fans anyway, and they "pay money to see him and buy his stuff," Thomas said.

The income generated through those fans is "enough to support 22 other thoroughbreds who were winners," he added, referring to the other horses at

the farm Zippy now calls home. Although Zippy failed to live up to the first part of his name, the horse certainly was chippy.

"He was a nasty horse," Thomas said.

He wrote about the first time Monserrate met Zippy, after trading an old van for the racehorse.

"Felix went into the ham as the new and proud owner of Zippy Chippy, a horse that had nowhere to go but up," Thomas wrote. "By way of offering his opinion of the trade, the horse

immediately hit him."

Another example of Zippy's chippy demeanor happened when the horse trapped Monserrate in a stall to avoid a training session, keeping him there for hours until he finally escaped when the horse became distracted.

But there was also a gentle side to Zippy.

Monserrate at first was terrified when the horse appeared to be doing the same thing to his daughter Maria, trapping her in the same stall.

"Felix really freaked," Thomas said.

"He thought that was the end of his kid, and he just froze. He knew she was in there, but she was never supposed to go to that stall. He didn't know what to do."

Despite his terror about what the massive racehorse might do to the girl, Monserrate heard his daughter giggling.

"Zippy was nuzzling her, and she was hanging on to his mane," Thomas said. "That's when Felix said, 'That's it. This

horse is family for life."

Thomas said the best-selling book has attracted considerable attention since it was published, including some interest from the movie industry.

He said he has never had any of his 10 hooks turned into movies, "and I'm not sure there will ever be a movie made out of this one."

"But I think there will be an option deal," he said.

Thomas will read from his book Sept. 29, kicking off the Canadian Authors Series at Roselawn Centre for the Living Arts, 296 Fielden Ave. in Port Colborne.

The event begins with a wine tasting at 7 p.m., followed by the reading at 8.

More information is available at www.thecanadianauthorsseries.ca.

Zippy has been retired for the last decade, but still draws a crowd of visitors eager to see the horse that couldn't win. He's now living at a farm that specializes in caring for retired racehorses called Old Friends At Cabin Creek, in Greenfield Center, N.Y.

Despite his age, the 25-year-old horse is "still doing pretty good," Thomas said.

Zippy outlived his owner Monserrate, who died in June 2015 at age 72.

"There's a great quote that ends the book, and I think if Zippy had a human brain he would have said it himself," Thomas said. "It's that most contests are not always won by the strongest and fastest man, because in the end the man who wins is the man who thinks he can."

I think Zippy had a ball — him and Felix and all the crazy stuff they got into."

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Officers arraigned at disciplinary tribunal

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

A Niagara Regional Police officer was arraigned on two Police Service Act charges last Tuesday for allegedly pointing a gun at a fellow officer.

Const. Candace Wilson faces two charges of disciplinary conduct stemming from the incident on Feb. 17, alleged to have occurred inside the Niagara Falls police station.

Wilson, a uniform patrol officer and six-year veteran, didn't attend the internal disciplinary tribunal hearing and was represented by Niagara Region Police Association president Clifford Priest.

She is also facing criminal charges. Her next date in criminal court in St. Catharines is Sept. 20.

Wilson has been reassigned to administrative duties and is not in a frontline policing position, Const.

Phil Gavin confirmed.

Insp. Michael Woods, in his role as prosecutor at the hearing, said the Crown attorney asked that the police act proceedings against Wilson be stayed until the criminal charges are settled.

Hearing officer Supt. Brett Flynn adjourned her Police Service Act hearing until Jan. 10.

The Police Service Act is the legislation that governs the conduct of police officers

in Ontario, and police act charges often come in pairs. The first is for discreditible conduct because of the incident. The second is triggered when an officer is charged with a criminal offense.

In an unrelated case, Const. Wayne Brown, 42, was also arraigned on three Police Service Act charges of discreditible conduct last Tuesday. He didn't attend the hearing and was represented by Priest.

Brown, a 15-year veteran of the NRP working out of the Welland detachment, faces criminal charges for break and enter and assault after an incident at a home in Welland at about 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 12.

One of the discreditible conduct charges alleges he used profane, abusive or threatening language with the detectives conducting the investigation.

Brown has been reassigned to administrative duties. He

is not in a frontline policing position.

His next police act hearing is Jan. 10.

He is due in criminal court Oct. 3 for a confirmation hearing, where the Crown and defence counsel confirm their readiness to go ahead with a preliminary hearing or trial, the estimated length of time it will take and the number of witnesses they will call.

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Growing opportunities at Lockview Park

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne's Lockview Park has long been underused, but is on its way back to benefiting the community.

Based on the success of Port Cares community garden, Sarah Lacharity of Raw Materials Company Inc. is proposing another community garden be made available at Lockview.

"Port Cares community garden has already shown a wealth of benefits that come from a garden," she said. "Not only is the garden providing fresh, healthy food to our community, but it's also a great educational implement as well."

She told council during her presentation Monday night that a second community garden will extend the reach within the community and give more residents the opportunity to grow their own fresh food.

She also highlighted how a community garden can bring together people of all ages, cultures and walks of life while being environmentally friendly at the same time. The cost-effectiveness of it is also a bonus.

"We (at RMC) do recognize that eating healthy comes at a cost, and we would like to see everybody in our community be able to eat healthy and reap the benefits of fresh food."

The plan is for RMC and another company, Marine Recycling Corporation, to provide project funding, which includes the garden beds, a tool shed and soil. They will also handle organizing allocation of the plots, managing four of the planned eight beds for Port Cares plus any communications needs.

"It's their own plots, pretty much, but we have the seeds," Lacharity said of the cost for



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The team that is helping make the Lockview Park community garden happen is on site in Port Colborne and ready to start digging. From left, Port Colborne Parks Foreman Mike Audit and Mike Graybill, Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais, chief administrative officer Scott Luey, Mayor John Maloney, Port Cares Reach Out Manager Amanda Upper and Sarah Lacharity with Raw Materials Company Inc.

those who will use the beds.

"The beds are already built; the dirt will be in them. It will just be their time and their seeds."

The eight raised garden beds are set to be eight feet by 16 feet with enough space in between for several people to work at the same time and for garden equipment such as

wheelbarrows to fit between.

A rain barrel and water tote on site will provide the water needed to tend to the gardens. Lacharity said during dry seasons like this past summer, the two companies will make sure the tote is filled.

"There's a lot of opportunities for future expansion," she said.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais said she also sees a lot of chances for expanding. With the size of the lot, she thinks there could be greenhouses there in the future.

"I get the enormous impact that (community gardens) have in creating great neighborhoods and keeping the community spirit going," she

told council.

She said giving people, no matter their situation, the chance to have healthy food is also a big deal for her.

Fellow Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet agreed, especially since he feels gardening is a lost skill set.

"If people can get together and help each other out in

how to do this, that's going to help everyone," he said.

Phase one for the project begins this fall and will see installation of the garden beds. The plan is to have the site ready for planting between May and October next year.

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BOB

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As a young boy, I recall my parents making what seemed like a huge trip from Toronto to Niagara to visit a family friend's farm.

My face was smashed against the window and metal door panels of our Valiant as the road disappeared under the car and the fruit trees were a hypnotic blur.

Still, to this day I can close my eyes and taste those peaches.

So I encourage you to take



BOB TYMCZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Three variations of wine made from the Riesling grape. Thirty Bench Sparkling Riesling, Konzelmann Estate winery Reserve Old Vines Riesling 2014 and Cave Spring Indian Summer 2013 Riesling.

this opportunity to celebrate something we do really well here, which is grow grapes.

But you also need to think outside of the (wine) box.

This is the perfect time to try the things you normally don't drink.

Which may mean that it's worth a trip to a winery you've

never been to or try a wine you normally don't share.

We often lull ourselves by always ordering steak at a restaurant instead of trying the blackened catfish, or we ask for a glass of Merlot when we really might enjoy a Sauvignon Blanc.

That's the beauty of visiting some of our wineries, you can

try something different, or try several different styles of the same grape.

So this week my wife and I tried three variations of the Riesling grape, one of the noblest.

Done well, it can age as well as the finest red wines, and it can be the go-to wine tonight for a backyard full of friends for

a barbecue.

First, we have the Thirty Bench Sparkling Riesling.

Most sparkling here in Niagara is made from Chardonnay and Pinot grapes, but using the Riesling grape makes for a very bright dry wine.

Right off the bat, you are welcomed with strong notes of citrus fruit and a very light yeast, baked bread smell.

The bubbles are quite sharp, invigorating, and the taste confirms the citrus character with a dose of acidity that will keep you asking for another pour.

This is a very food-friendly wine able to tackle strongly herbed chicken, and will do well with spicy barbecued shrimp.

To sum it up: a party in a glass.

We followed it up with the Konzelmann Estate Winery 2014 Reserve Old Vines Riesling.

Pale in colour, which is surprising because the label says it spent some time in barrel, the wine exudes a perfume of lemon, apricot and a very delicate honey smell.

This wine is made from some of the oldest vines on the property, and it shows in its depth.

Balanced ever so slightly to

the side of acidic, it still delivers a wonderful taste of grapefruit and tangerine.

And lastly, we have the Cave Spring Indian Summer 2013 Riesling.

"The best description I can give is autumn sunshine in a glass. If it were just too sweet for you, this may be the wine you're yearning for."

Leaving grapes on the vine allows them to concentrate their sugars, but this wine is not cloying so that it balances our palates with copious amounts of sweetness.

Winemaker Angelo Pavan crafts a sweet wine so very well-balanced with acidity, you'll be tilting your glass to get every last drop.

Lemony in colour, it's floral, with peach and honey and it has a wonderful lingering finish.

Cave Spring Indian Summer is an impressive wine with which to finish a meal.

All three of these wines will also make excellent choices as we come upon Thanksgiving, and all three have a different role in the meal.

Enjoy the harvest and taste outside of the (wine) box.

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Ontario's climate change minister should stop the insults



LORRIE

GOLDSTEIN

Ontario Climate Change Minister Glen Murray can always be relied upon to portray those who disagree with him as "climate deniers."

Of course the phrase is repugnant, evoking Holocaust

While Murray would no doubt say that is not his intent, for example when he tweeted

earlier this year that "climate denier Patrick Brown discovers climate change" — after the Ontario PC leader said he supported revenue neutral carbon pricing — many others have made the link explicitly.

Populartechology.net has compiled a useful, but by no means exhaustive list of prominent individuals who it says have deliberately made the link between climate change denial and Holocaust denial, including:

- Ellen Goodman, the Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist who wrote in 2007 that: "There are many more traits that the climate deniers share with the creationists and Hol-

ocaust deniers and others who distort the truth."

- George Monbiot, the world's leading climate change journalist, who wrote in 2006 that: "Almost everywhere, climate change denial now looks as stupid and as unacceptable as Holocaust denial."

- And Al Gore, who, in a column titled *An Ecological Kristallnacht*, Listen, wrote: "In 1989, clouds of a different sort signal an environmental holocaust without precedent. Once again, world leaders waffle, hoping the danger will dissipate. Yet today the evidence is as clear as the sounds of glass shattering in Berlin."

In this context, I have some

questions for Murray based on my belief he's a "reality denier," forging ahead with a cap-and-trade carbon pricing scheme that, based on real-world experience, a.k.a. reality, is a proven disaster.

To wit:

Why, Minister, have you modelled Ontario's looming cap-and-trade market on Europe's disastrous Emissions Trading Scheme which, over its 11-year history, has not only failed to lower industrial greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change efficiently or effectively, but has been overrun by fraud, prompting major criminal investigations by Interpol?

Why are you about to flood Ontario's cap-and-trade market with free carbon allowances to major industrial emitters? Surely you realize this is the same mistake the Europeans made and that it will result in undeserved windfall profits to these corporations, while undermining the purpose of cap-and-trade, which is to price emissions?

Why have you chosen the least transparent form of carbon pricing, since cap-and-trade buries the cost into the retail prices of goods and services, meaning the public has no way of knowing what these costs are?

Finally, why are you not

implementing the most effective, transparent and politically honest form of carbon pricing — 100 per cent revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend — for which every dollar the government raises by increasing taxes on consumption is returned to the public in income tax cuts or outright grants? As you know, this type of carbon pricing — designed to lower emissions as opposed to increasing government revenues — is advocated by everyone from climate scientist James Hansen, the father of man-made climate change theory, to the Green Party of Canada.

Surely you agree they're not "climate deniers." Right?

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NRE keep traditions alive in Welland

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Despite being cancelled earlier this summer, the Niagara Regional Exhibition drew hundreds of people this past weekend.

"We had a ton of people coming in, I don't know how many exactly ... but anyways we had more people than usual on a Friday and probably the biggest draw was ... it was free and the tractor pull," said Ray Ravazzolo, president of the host Niagara Agricultural Society.

After the City of Welland provided a \$40,000 grant to the society, board members worked diligently for about three weeks to organize the event, which was paired with a scaled down version of the Niagara Food Festival, also cancelled this year.

Amber Gilbert, first vice-president of the society's executive board, said the exhibition usually takes about a year to prepare for, so it was stressful putting it together in three weeks.

Due to the initial cancellation, the board wasn't able to book the midway, Gilbert said the midway originally booked made alternate plans when it had been decided to postpone the long-running exhibition for a year. Rides and games will return next year, she said.

Ravazzolo said new elements to the NRE this weekend included the tractor pull, which he said he's been



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Leland Stovell, 5, enjoys a pony ride at the Niagara Regional Exhibition with his mom Christina Stovell, centre, and the assistance of Tina Smith, owner of the pony rides.

wanting for many years. There was also the addition of Niagara Inflatables, a dog show and demolition show. He said the rain Saturday put a damper on things at the fair. The remainder of a horse show was cancelled because of the rain.

Eventgoer Christina Stovell, who attended with her five-year-old son Leland, said the NRE wasn't as good as it has been in previous years.

"It's kind of sad because there are no rides. I mean if

we had the bouncy castles it would be a little more for the kids. You know it's kind of hard keeping their attention span. But you know, we will be back no matter what. We come out every year," Stovell said.

She said it was a good thing the NRE wasn't cancelled, adding it would have been a bad idea to skip a year.

"People who come out every year will come back," she said.

Another addition to the NRE this year was the food

festival component.

Many eventgoers said they enjoyed being able to try different foods and participate in the exhibition.

Don Simpson, 45, said having it all in one place was a great idea. Simpson said he wished there was more for children to do though.

He said he is happy the city stepped in to help the NRE because it's important to keep tradition alive.

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Flavours' new Roselawn Centre venue hits the spot

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network



You know the rain at noon put a little bit of a damper (on it), but certainly the people and the workers kept trucking on."

Mayor John Maloney

Port Colborne celebrated a bit of what Niagara has to offer during its annual Flavours festival.

The event that showcases local breweries, food trucks, restaurants and music was held Friday and Saturday at the Roselawn Centre for the first time.

Mayor John Maloney said the location was a great fit and the event felt like a backyard get-together.

"I was here last night — perfect venue," he said Saturday. "I mean with the lights it was just nice."

Roselawn Centre's outdoor area was decorated with twinkling lights to set the festive mood.

In previous years the event was held at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, among other locations in Port Colborne.

Maloney said he liked the new location "200 per cent better" than H.H. Knoll. He said in the past when it rained people would be caught out in the bad weather and it was "awful." At the new location there is a hall people can retreat to indoors.

He said he wished it had been better weather, with rain Saturday, but noted local residents and people from out of town still made the trip to watch bands and try food.

"You know the rain at noon put a little bit of a damper (on it), but certainly the people and the workers kept trucking on," Maloney said.

One of those workers was Randy den Bak, who is on the volunteer committee for Flavours. He agreed with the mayor that the event felt like a backyard party, much more intimate than in previous years.

Den Bak said if the weather had been better Saturday there would have been more people at the event, but there was still a good turn out.

Port Colborne's John Lehecki said he was enjoying the music and was planning to attend Saturday's concert, which featured the Stricly Hip, a Tragically Hip cover band.

Lehecki attends Flavours almost every year. Lehecki said he thought overall the Roselawn venue had a great atmosphere.

Some of the vendors participating were Beinstone Brewery from Ridgeway and the Smokin' Buddha from Port Colborne.

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LOCAL NEWS

Encounters with bats soar

ALLEN BENNER
Postmedia Network

The number of people treated at Niagara hospitals after encounters with wild bats has almost doubled over 2015.

"We've had 75 bat-human interactions this year," said Peter Jekel, an environmental health manager from Niagara's public health department.

"Last year, we had 44 in Niagara. It's almost twice as much."

Although Jekel cannot discuss specific cases, one of the most recent of those interactions took place in Welland last week. A woman, who asked not to be iden-

tified, said she was walking along the sidewalk on the southside of Woodlawn Road at about 8:15 p.m. last Friday, when a bat flew out of a wooded area between Niagara Street and First Avenue.

"It seemed to be in some kind of frenzy, diving at me over and over again," she said. "I put my arm up to protect myself and to shoo it away, but it bit me in the arm twice, drawing blood."

She checked into the hospital emergency department the next morning, and began precautionary treatments for rabies.

Story continued on Page 17



SUPPLIED PHOTO



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And the Port survey says ...

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne councillors are getting a better idea of what the community wants and needs in terms of services because of survey results brought to council.

City age-friendly needs assessment co-ordinator Pearl Paul spoke on behalf of the senior citizens advisory council during last Monday night's session.

She spoke about and presented the results found in a report conducted by the advisory council to determine what needs were important to residents of Port Colborne.

"We did decide to do the survey for all ages — for all adults in the community — for a few reasons," she told

council.

"We think age-friendly means more than just senior citizens. I think there's a perspective to show that age-friendly means inclusive."

The survey was given to adults 18 and older, but divided into two age categories during analysis. Ages 18 to 49 stood as one group and 50 to 90 made up the other. Most of the 404 people who responded to the survey were between the ages of 20 and 89 years old.

The advisory council found health ranked as most important to people across the board. Overall, nearly 66 per cent of people surveyed placed health and community supports as number one.

The survey also looked at civic participation and

“(The survey) also pointed out that rural interests, although they're very much aligned with the city as all of the other priorities, they're just lacking in certain services completely.”

Pearl Paul

employment, housing, transportation, communication and public spaces as areas of interest, which varied in rankings between the two groups.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said she found these results surprising, in particular that health was most important for all ages.

The response from rural residents shifted the data slightly.

"(The survey) also pointed out that rural interests, although they're very much aligned with the city as all of the other priorities, they're just lacking in certain services completely," Paul said.

She gave the example that there is no public transit to rural areas, and that walking is also not really an option.

"There's nowhere to walk that's safe," she said.

The report provided to council also highlighted some of the discussion and suggestions from focus groups about how to remedy the issues or put in place services residents feel they need.

Councillors were impressed by the data given during the presentation. Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said there will be a lot of decisions to make based on that information.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais said, "these people knocked themselves out to get this information and this will provide us with every-

thing we need to move forward and make this an even better community."

The survey got responses from 46 per cent of residents given it, which Paul said is up in comparison to London, Ont.'s 11 per cent.

The overarching goal of putting the report together was to determine locally what people need. Niagara Region had conducted this survey for the entire region in 2014.

"We decided that we'd really like to see a localized version of that information," said Paul.

The report shows a pretty big difference between the desires of the region and the desires of the Port Colborne community.

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Police, Uber resolve their differences

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police and ride-sharing giant Uber have worked out their differences.

Previously, the Niagara police board passed a bylaw allowing Uber to operate legally in Niagara starting July 1.

Board members found out last week, though, that Uber hadn't met some of the conditions. Members were unhappy with the lack of progress after putting so much effort into crafting the new bylaw.

Last Tuesday, it was announced the NRP's licensing unit staff and Uber representatives had solved most of their issues.

Uber originally moved into the Niagara market illegally in Novem-

ber 2015, ignoring the regulations. In June, the board finished work on regulations that updated rules for taxis and ride-hailing services in Niagara.

The new rules included having Uber pay a flat fee for licensing and a per trip charge. Uber was also supposed to supply the police with a list of drivers so the NRP could make sure the company was meeting another section of the new regulations, which include background checks and vehicle safety requirements.

Those requirements are identical to ones applied to taxi drivers and taxi cabs.

"There are still only very minor issues left, and I have been assured by the police service that these would be solved shortly," board

chairman Bob Gale said. "I am very pleased with what has transpired over the last four days.

"The money has now been fully paid, we have received insurance documentation, and the procedure for drivers' checks via secure electronic transfer has commenced."

Niagara's police board is responsible for bylaws that regulate business operators and drivers of various vehicles-for-hire, such as cabs, tow trucks, limousines, sightseeing and shuttle vehicles.

The board's changes to the regulations were intended to level the playing field — as much as possible — between the ride-hailing services, which are called Transportation Network Carriers, and the taxi industry.

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Join us for Vale Day on Saturday, September 24th, 2016!

Vale, in partnership with the City of Port Colborne and the Port Colborne YMCA, is hosting a **FREE** activity day for the Port Colborne community at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. Participants will be able to enjoy open gym, swimming and skating opportunities. There will be additional recreation programs that cater to both children and adults. Please refer to the schedule below for times and locations. For more information, call Community Services at the City of Port Colborne at 905-835-2901 x535 or email communityservices@portcolborne.ca.

Vale will also be hosting our annual Open House! Come visit us in the Main Lobby where you can get an update on our operations, talk to Vale staff, and discuss issues that are important to you. We hope to see you there!

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	Main Lobby	Front Entrance	YMCA Pool	YMCA Gym	YMCA Fitness Room (16+)	Boxing Club	Rink 2	Front Entrance (Outside)	Golden Puck Community Room
10:00 am									
10:30 am				Family Circuit 10:30 am - 11:00 am		Try Boccia 10:00 am - 11:30 am			
11:00 am									
11:30 am		City of Port Colborne Fall/Winter Program		Family Bounce Family Gym Time 11:00 am - 1:00 pm				PORTicipate Trailer Fun Games & Activities 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Kids Arts & Crafts 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:00 pm					Try Working Out! 10:00 am - 4:00 pm				
12:30 pm						Kids Cooking Demo 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm			
1:00 pm	Vale Open House & Face Painting 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration & YMCA Information and Membership Registration 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Open Swim 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm						
1:30 pm								Try Cyclefit 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	
2:00 pm							Public Skating 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm		
2:30 pm									
3:00 pm							Try Sledge Hockey 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm		
3:30 pm									

Subject to Changes and Modifications



Short film celebrates St. Catharines performers

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

A short film screening at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Sept. 28 is a celebration of St. Catharines' film and TV stars.

Hotshots, directed by Sir Winston Churchill grad David Barlow, showcases performers like Kim Hufman (Mamma Mia), Mike Shara (Stratford and Shaw Festivals) and Barbara Budd (As It Happens) while revisiting the time spent in the Garden City.

"In every case, it was either a teacher or a relative (that) said something to them...they encouraged them because they felt they had talent," says Barlow, a producer and writer for Canadian shows like The Bor-

der, Remedy and King. "They were inspired by teachers, helped out by relatives, and the other thing is they saw stuff."

"A number of them had seen something by Garden City Productions, and thought 'That's something I'd like to do.'"

The film is part of the Performing Arts Centre's Film House fall schedule, and will screen in advance of the documentary Mr. Zaritsky on TV, about St. Catharines-born documentary filmmaker John Zaritsky. It's co-directed by Merritt High School grad Michael Savoie.

"It's an all St. Catharines evening," says Barlow.

He made his 22-minute film in collaboration with the Niagara Artists Centre and recent grads of Sheridan College,

where he teaches film and television. He credits his sister Janice, an arts consultant, who prompted him to make a movie about local talent when she first heard about the Performing Arts Centre.

"She said to me, 'I think it would be an interesting idea to do some sort of thing where we recognize the fact St. Catharines has fostered a pretty significant number of folks who went on into the arts.'"

Barlow also spoke to Chris Potter (Heartland) and David Sutcliffe (Gilmore Girls) for the doc, which he plans to take to local schools after its premiere.

Following the screenings a reception will be held across the street at the Mahtay Cafe.

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Staff changes for Wainfleet Township

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Since taking the helm at Wainfleet Township hall in March, Michael Smith has been working to put a team in place to move the community forward.

And now Wainfleet's chief administrative officer feels he has most of the staff he needs in place to take on the challenges to come.

"It's very exciting," Smith said. "There are lots of opportunities as we move forward, for sure."

The township, which recently announced that Kevin Foster had been hired as fire chief replacing Harry Flagg, issued a news release earlier this week announcing more staff changes. Randy Dequire has been hired as the township's chief building official, filling a position that was vacant for several months, and Mark Tardiff was hired as bylaw enforcement officer.

Navigating through the requirements of the building code can be difficult to under-

stand and everyone deserves to leave our office feeling as good about their project as the service we provide," Dequire said in the release.

In addition to his academic training, Dequire has 12 years of practical experience working in the field.



"It's very exciting. There are lots of opportunities as we move forward, for sure."

Michael Smith

Tardiff is bringing more than a decade of experience to the job.

"In my public service career, I have found that communication and finding common ground are the most important keys in any situa-

tion," Tardiff said.

Smith said the bylaw enforcement position in Wainfleet had previously been combined with the job of septic system inspector, but that changed when township council approved a report that recommended hiring a full-time bylaw enforcement officer.

Smith said the township also hired four students to

work on bylaw enforcement during the summer, however, they have now returned to their studies.

Meanwhile, Lee Gudgeon has been hired as the township's deputy clerk, bringing 13 years of experience working at both the federal and provincial government levels.

"A person can be part of real change at the municipal level and I welcome the opportu-

nity to serve with a dynamic council and dedicated staff," Gudgeon said in the release.

"The township also requires a new planner, but that position is to be filled internally by Sarah Smith, who has been working as the township's acting clerk "for quite some time," the chief administrative officer said.

"But once Gudgeon is up to full speed, Sarah will trans-

ition into the full-time planner role, and will no longer be the acting clerk," said Michael Smith, no relation to Sarah Smith.

Efforts are continuing to recruit a new treasurer-clerk, a job currently being done by acting treasurer and manager of accounting Mallory Luey.

abenner@postmedia.com
Twitter: @abenner



In The NEWS

LARRY BOGGIO WILL BE GOING THE DISTANCE FOR WELLSRING NIAGARA



Port Colborne, Ont. — From September 24-30 2016, Larry Boggio, owner of Boggio Family of Pharmacies, will be riding in the WellSpring Ride for Cancer Support from Toronto to Miami, in support of WellSpring Centres in the Greater Toronto Area and the Niagara Region.

Larry will be taking on The Peloton Challenge, cycling 3,000 kilometers, relay-style, from Toronto to Miami, Florida. This is not a typical charity bike ride — it is a unique cycling challenge where teams of cyclists (pelotons) ride together for six hours at a time, travelling distances of 120km. The ride goes 24 hours a day, for seven days straight.

Larry is one of 30 riders who get to participate this year. Each rider has committed to raising a minimum \$10,000 — the funds that Larry raises will go towards supporting the programs offered at WellSpring Niagara.

"The ride funds more than 45 cancer support and coping skills programs that WellSpring provides, free of charge, to individuals and families living with cancer," explains Larry. "I trained through out the spring and summer months for this ride because I felt it was a worthwhile cause."

When Larry initially signed up for the challenge, the \$10,000 minimum fundraising commitment seemed a little daunting, but Larry hit the pavement and has raised over \$12,000.

"My family, friends, colleagues and people in the Niagara community really rallied behind me and this great cause," explains Larry. "I received a lot of support from the community, which makes them a crucial community partner that deserves community support."

Larry, as a pharmacist who owns four pharmacies in the Niagara region and a board member on Niagara Health's Board of Director, recognizes how dynamic and multi-talented patient care is. This ride is just another way for Larry to go the distance to help support and improve healthcare services in Niagara.

For Larry, supporting members of his community is just a given. There is still time to support Larry's ride and WellSpring Niagara. Visit Larry's fundraising page at <http://nlp.ly/2c1wPp> to donate or visit wellspring.ca/niagara for more information about WellSpring Niagara and their services.

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LOCAL NEWS

Wildlife experts say increase of rabies cases in Niagara Region

From Page 7

Jekel said he could provide no explanation for the increased number of interactions with the animals that are known to carry rabies.

"There could be more awareness, or who knows, maybe the bat population is going up, I don't know," Jekel said.

He said there have been previous news reports about the prevalence of rabies in local wildlife, such as bats and raccoons. Five raccoons have tested positive for rabies this year, all of them in Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Jekel said the spread of rabies this year is worse in Hamilton, where a large number of skunks and a fox have tested positive for rabies, in addition to numerous raccoons.

"It has spread beyond just the raccoon population itself."

Wildlife expert Mary-Catharine Kuruziak said it's extremely rare for bats to attack people. Nevertheless, she said a single "little brown bat can eat 1,200 mosquitoes in one hour, and does that all night long."

Encounters between bats and people do happen when bats swoop down to catch mosquitoes as those mosquitoes are swooping down trying to bite someone. When the person waves their arms at the bat trying to drive it away, she said it's unusual, but the bat may bite the person while trying to defend itself.

Kuruziak, an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources licensed wildlife rehabilitator, agreed with Jekel about increased awareness about rabies this year.

"That awareness, and perhaps you can call it fear, has resulted in a much higher number of bats being submitted for testing," she said.

About 200 bats are being tested for rabies each week in this area, but Kuruziak said there is no increase in the number of bats that have tested positive for rabies.

"Less than 0.1 per cent of all native bats are rabid. That's a low percentage," she said. "Very low."

Regardless, she advised people who have been in contact with bats to visit the hospital as a precau-

It has spread beyond just the raccoon population itself."

Peter Jekel, an environmental health manager

tion. Meanwhile, she said bats are becoming increasingly endangered in Ontario. Four of the eight bat species found in the province are listed as species at risk.

"Our bats are dying at a disturbing rate" from a fungal virus, she said.

Considering the bats' ability to control mosquito populations, she said if "we lose half the bat population, we're doomed."

If any bat is found on the ground "or stuck somewhere, that has had absolutely no contact with a domestic animal or a human being, please don't kill it or send it for testing automatically," Kuruziak pleaded. "It can very often be helped and there's a right way to catch it and bring it in to me or another wildlife custodian for care. We have to try to save as many of them as we can."

The woman, who was recently bitten by the bat in Welland, said she remains concerned about the thousands of students in the area attending classes at Niagara College.

"I am very concerned because of the close proximity to Niagara College and the large number of students that walk along Woodlawn Road to go to the Seaway Mall for shopping or to Staples Business Depot for school supplies," she said.

Kuruziak advised people to apply insect repellent containing DEET when they're outside in the early morning or at sunsets to protect themselves from both mosquitoes and the bats that are hunting the mosquitoes.

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New Wainfleet chief settles in

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Wainfleet's new fire chief is on the job.

Kevin Foster, who brings with him 28 years of experience in fire service, started last Tuesday, replacing longtime chief Harry Plagg, who left earlier this month.

Foster first began working as a volunteer firefighter in East Gwillimbury, Ont. in 1987. Since then he has worked in communities throughout Ontario, including Richmond Hill and North Kewartha.

Firefighting is in Foster's DNA — his father was a firefighter, and Foster said many of his relatives were or still are firefighters. He became interested in the profession not only because of his father, but because he also felt he wanted to help people.

"I always come back to the reason I got involved, which was to help people. That's what I think it was really about, and it is a common theme you would hear when talking with anyone in the emergency services sector in particular," he said.

"I got involved as a volunteer helping my friends and family."

Foster said one of the main things that attracted him to Wainfleet was the opportunity to do a lot of background work. The town is performing an operational review and creating a fire master plan he said will lay a footprint to the future.

During his career, Foster has been involved in the creation of fire master plans at other fire stations. The plan is a document that is created to set a plan for



Wainfleet's new fire Chief Kevin Foster has experience as a fire chief and firefighter over the past 28 years.

the future of the fire department, covering everything from the bells and mortar to the trucks and equipment.

Foster said he is looking forward to being part of the future of the Wainfleet fire department and dealing with changes as they come about.

When he was in North Kewartha, he was working with volunteer firefighters. Foster said the setup in Wainfleet is similar, but there were five stations there

and only three in Wainfleet.

He said he also managed more than 60 volunteer firefighters, so managing the 40 in Wainfleet won't be anything new for him.

"Part of my background, wherever I've been ... I've had volunteer firefighter components with each of those departments I've been with and that spans the full 28 years of my background."

Foster said what makes vol-

unteer firefighters so unique is their dedication to their community. They are committed to helping others and maintaining their town or city.

"They bring a wide variety of expertise, because you are drawing people from professional backgrounds or wherever, so you will have some people who have extensive backgrounds in particular areas, which is a big benefit to a department."

He said anyone who is inter-

ested in becoming a volunteer firefighter should contact their local fire department. He said people can learn a lot from talking to firefighters about what they do.

One of the challenges for volunteer firefighters is that they are essentially on call 24 hours a day. Foster said not everyone can answer the call all the time, so having multiple volunteers helps.

"People also have their work

“Part of my background, wherever I've been ... I've had volunteer firefighter components with each of those departments I've been with and that spans the full 28 years of my background.”

Kevin Foster

lives and their personal lives on top of their commitments to their communities and the fire department. It's a balance piece," Foster said.

He is currently living in Barrie, but said he is looking to relocate to Wainfleet soon. He said he has been "getting his feet wet" during the first week as fire chief and settling into the position.

"It's a beautiful area of the province ... In terms of the Niagara area itself, it is very nice," Foster said.

He is an active member on the board of directors for the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. During his years on the board, he served as president during the 2012/2013 year.

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